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The Nightingale

adapted from the story by Hans Christian Andersen

Long ago in China, there lived an Emperor who loved beautiful things. His clothes were beautiful. His palace was beautiful. He had beautiful gardens filled with beautiful trees and flowers. People came from all over the world to look at these beautiful things.

1. The gardens _____ beautiful. (was/were)
2. The palace _____ beautiful. (was/were)
3. The flowers _____ beautiful. (was/were)
4. The Emperor loved _____ things.

One evening, the Emperor asked his servant to read a book to him. The servant read, "Everything in China is beautiful, the palace, the gardens, the flowers. But, the most beautiful thing in all of China is the song of the nightingale."

"What?!" said the Emperor, "What is a nightingale?"

"I'm not sure, but the book says it's a little brown bird," said the servant.

"Find the nightingale! And bring it to me!" said the Emperor.

5. The book said: the most beautiful thing in all of China was:
 - a) the Emperor
 - b) the gardens
 - c) the song of the nightingale
 - d) the palace

The servant asked everyone in the beautiful palace, but no one knew where the nightingale lived. Then, he went to the kitchen and asked the cooks. A little girl who worked in the kitchen said, "I know where the nightingale lives. It lives in the forest, near the lake. It sings every night. I can show you."

That night, the servant went with the little girl to the lake. The little girl showed the servant where the nightingale was sitting.

"**That** little brown bird?! It's not beautiful!" said the servant.

"Wait till it sings," whispered the little girl.

6. Where did the servant find the nightingale?
 - a) In the kitchen.
 - b) Swimming in the lake.
 - c) In the garden.
 - d) Near the lake.

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When the little brown bird began to sing, the servant didn't know what to say. "...It's, it's, it's like... glass bells ...it's loud... it's like a melody...it's beautiful," he whispered. He walked slowly up to the nightingale and spoke gently: "Little bird, can you come to the Emperor's palace tomorrow night and sing for him?" "I can do that," said the bird and off it flew.

7. The nightingale's song was:

- a) loud
- b) like glass bells
- c) beautiful
- d) all of these things

The next night, the Nightingale flew to the palace and sang for the Emperor. Tears ran down the Emperor's cheeks. It was the most beautiful song he had ever heard.

"Little bird, please stay with me. I will give you a beautiful golden cage and all the food you want. Stay here with me and sing for me every day," said the emperor. So, the nightingale stayed with the Emperor. It lived in its golden cage and sang for the emperor every day.

Draw the Emperor's face when he first heard the nightingale.

One day, a present arrived for the Emperor. It was a beautiful mechanical bird, made of gold and silver and decorated with beautiful stones. It had a key in its back, and when the key was turned the golden bird made a bird sound.

"Wow!" said everyone. "What a beautiful bird."

"This, really is a beautiful bird! And it makes a bird sound, too!" said the Emperor.

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"You don't need that little brown nightingale anymore. Let it go back to the forest," said the servant. And he opened the cage and set the happy nightingale free.

8. Which 2 sentences are true?
- a) The Emperor liked the golden bird more than the nightingale.
 - b) The golden bird sang better than the nightingale.
 - c) The nightingale broke its cage and escaped.
 - d) The nightingale was happy to be free.

For a long time, the Emperor was happy with his golden bird. But one day it stopped singing, and no one could fix it. The Emperor became so sad that he became very ill. He stayed in bed and his servants thought that he was going to die. Everyone was talking about the Emperor dying and the nightingale heard about it. It flew to the Emperor's palace and sat at his window and began to sing for him.

Immediately, the Emperor sat up in his bed. There were tears in his eyes. "Oh, little nightingale, your song is so beautiful. I feel much better already. Please, come back and live in my palace again."

9. There were tears in the Emperor's eyes because:
- a) He was dying.
 - b) The song of the nightingale was so beautiful.
 - c) The golden bird was broken.
 - d) No one could fix the golden bird.

But the nightingale said: "No. I want to be free. I don't want your golden cage. I want to live near the lake. But, I will come and sing for you often. I will also fly around this great country and come back and tell you how things are in China. Not everything is beautiful in China. Some people are very poor. Some need food, some need medicine, some need schools."

"They do?" asked the Emperor.

"Yes, but this must be our secret. Tell no one that I told you," said the nightingale.

"It will be our secret," said the Emperor. "You will sing for me and I will help the people."

10. Which 2 sentences are true?
- a) The Emperor sang for the nightingale.
 - b) Some people in China needed medicine.
 - c) The bird and the Emperor have a secret.
 - d) Everything in China was beautiful.



Name _____ Date _____

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Answers

1. were
2. was
3. were
4. beautiful
5. c
6. d
7. d
8. a and d
9. b
10. b and c